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"MONSTERS RIDE AT NIGHT"
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# THE WAY OF THE WEREWOLF

COME WITH ME, FELLOW FIENDS, FOR IT'S MARDI GRAS TIME IN NEW ORLEANS! LET US JOIN MELANIE ADAMS, AND THE OTHERS, WHO ARE HERE FOR THIS FESTIVE OCCASION... INCLUDING THE HAIRY ONE WITH THE TOOTHY SMILE!

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OH, OH... HE KNOWS I'M LOOKING AT HIM! GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
IF HE COMES ANY CLOSER, I'LL SCREAM!
EEEEEIIIIIIIIIIII!
THE SCREAM OF SHEER TERROR ALERTS THE CROWD TO MELANIE ADAMS AND HER HIDEOUS ASSAILANT!
ROWRRRR! HA! HA!
NICE SCREAM, BABY... SURE FOOLED ME! NEXT TIME LET ME KNOW, AND I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND!

OH, RITA, THANK HEAVEN IT'S YOU! AFTER WE GOT SEPARATED I SAW A WEREWOLF.. A REAL ONE... BUT NOBODY BELIEVES ME!
SOME OF THESE COSTUMES ARE WEIRD, MELANIE! COME ON, THE BOYS PROMISED TO TAKE US TO A TERRIFIC NEW RESTAURANT!
DON'T WORRY, MELANIE, I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE FOR THE REST OF THE EVENING!
IS THAT WHERE WE'RE GOING? OH, NO! I'M NOT GOING IN THERE!
COME ON, MELANIE.., WE'LL HAVE FUN...AND THE FOOD IS GREAT!
WOLF
INN
COME, COME...DON'T BE FRIGHTENED LIKE MELANIE ADAMS! IT'S A PUBLIC PLACE... ISN'T IT?
I KNOW I'M BEING SILLY... BUT THAT WEREWOLF LOOKED SO REAL... AND THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

BUT IT IS A RESTAURANT...WEIRDLY LIGHTED...WITH LOW, WAILING MUSIC,...SET TO A DEEP BEAT... ALMOST A HEARTBEAT!
ARE YOU STILL AFRAID OF WEREWOLVES, MELANIE?

AS PROMISED, THE FOOD IS DELICIOUS... AND MELANIE GRADUALLY LOSES HER DREAD OF THE PLACE!
LET'S FIND THE LOUNGE AND FRESHEN UP, MELANIE!
OKAY, RITA...BE RIGHT BACK, BOYS!
WOL

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

IN THE LOUNGE, MELANIE RECOMBS HER HAIR!
GUESS I WAS FOOLISH TO REACT THE WAY I DID... BETTER TRY AND FORGET IT!
MMMM... I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO RITA! SHE SHOULD BE HERE BY NOW!
MAYBE SHE CHANGED HER MIND!
OH, WELL, I'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
LET'S SEE NOW... WHICH DOOR DID I USE TO GET IN HERE? THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM! THIS IS THE ONE... I THINK!
RRRROOOAAR!! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MY DEAR!
OH... NO!
5

SHE'S FAINTED..GOOD! SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ME FOR WHAT I REALLY AM...AND SHE WON'T TELL!
NOW, I'LL TAKE HER PAST THOSE FOOLS OUT THERE... AND THEY'LL NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!
HEY, LOOK AT THAT TEAM-UP, RITA! BEAUTY AND THE BEAST! THIS PLACE IS A RIOT!
THAT'S... MELANIE!
RRRROOAAR! MAKE WAY... HA! HA! HA!
WE MUST HURRY, IF WE WANT TO CATCH THEM!
THIS OLD STOREROOM BENEATH THE CAFE HAS SERVED ME WELL IN THE PAST, AND IT WILL AGAIN!
WHA-? PUT ME DOWN!
OF COURSE, MY DEAR...I'M ALWAYS WILLING TO GRANT A LAST REQUEST!
6

P-PLEASE...IF THIS IS A JOKE, I'M N-NOT LAUGHING!
YOU TRIED TO WARN THEM ABOUT ME... DIDN'T YOU?
WELL, YOU'VE FAILED... AND NOW... YOU DIE!
LIKE MANY GIRLS OF THIS GENERATION, MELANIE ADAMS HAS STUDIED KARATE... AND APPLIES IT!
URGGH!
T-THAT'S OSCAR ROBBINS...THE OWNER OF THIS PLACE! WHAT HAPPENED, MELANIE?
H-HE TRIED TO KILL ME... AND WHEN I FOUGHT HIM OFF HE FELL BACK ONTO THAT SPEAR! IS...HE DEAD?
YES, MELANIE, QUITE DEAD..KILLED BY THE SPEAR... A SILVER TIPPED SPEAR, EH, DEAR READER?
7
END

WHAT'S NEW?
MASTER OF DARKNESS, DESTROY THIS MAN-MADE ABOMINATION! HELP ME, VIKTOR PRUHA, TO PRESERVE THIS VALLEY AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN!
ANDY, LOOK!
IT'S THE GHOST THEY WARNED US ABOUT, GLORIA...
THERE ARE BACKWARD AREAS IN THE WORLD...BUT THIS BALKAN VILLAGE WAS RIDICULOUS! THERE WASN'T A SINGLE THING IN IT THAT WAS INVENTED OR PUT IN USE AFTER 1900! THE GHOST OF VIKTOR PRUHA MADE SURE OF THAT...
...LET'S RUN!
NICHOLAS AIASETA
blbb
D-2962
1

VIKTOR PRUHA'S GHOST DID NOT PURSUE THEM ...BUT, SUDDENLY, A FRESH DANGER THREATENED...
OH, ANDY... *SOB*...
STEADY, GLORIA... DON'T PANIC!
GLORIA, DON'T... BLAST IT, THIS IS NO TIME TO FAINT!
SOMEONE HAS TO HELP US!
MY WIFE IS SICK! OPEN THE DOOR!
THE LIGHTS WENT OUT INSIDE...THEY WON'T HELP ME!
SUDDENLY, IN THE NEXT HOUSE, A DOOR OPENED AND...
IN HERE... HURRY!
THANK GOD!
THANK YOU, SIR...NO ONE ELSE WAS WILLING TO HELP!
DON'T THINK UNKINDLY OF THEM, MY FRIEND...

...THEY HAVE REASON TO FEAR THE WRATH OF VIKTOR PRUHA! YOU SAW FOR YOURSELF...IT WAS HIS GHOST THAT BURNED YOUR MACHINE!
WHY? MY WIFE AND I ARE TOURISTS... WE WISH NO HARM TO ANY-ONE!
IT WAS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE... THEN WAR CAME!
BE BRAVE, MY FRIENDS...DO NOT RUN FROM THEM!
"THERE WERE NEW AND STRANGE WEAPONS," RUDOLF MILYIK EXPLAINED, "AND OUR YOUNG MEN WERE ARM-ED ONLY WITH CLUBS AND MUSKETS! THEY DIED IN THE FIELDS TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR HOMES!"
THE FOOL! HE HAD NO CHANCE AGAINST MODERN WEAPONRY...HE AND HIS KIND MAKE IT EASY FOR US BECAUSE WE HAVE MODERN WEAPONS!
"THEY HAD NEW WEAPONS," RUDOLF CONTINUED. "A RAPID FIRE GUN KILLED ALL OF THEM...EVEN THE BURGOMEISTER, VIKTOR PRUHA!"

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

"THE CONQUERORS LET THE VILLAGERS BURY THEIR DEAD ... THEY OCCUPIED THE TOWN THAT NIGHT, CELEBRATING THEIR VICTORY!"
WE WILL CAPTURE ALL THE VILLAGES JUST AS EASILY! WITH OUR REVOLVERS AND QUICK-FIRING GUNS, THEY HAVE NO CHANCE!
BY ALWAYS UTILIZING THE LATEST WEAPONRY, MY COUNTRY WILL RULE THE WORLD!
"THE GHOST OF VIKTOR PRUHA WALKED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT NIGHT," THE BALKANITE RELATED, "AND HE WALKED AGAIN WHENEVER AN OUTSIDER CAME INTO OUR VILLAGE! VIKTOR PRUHA WANTED NO CHANGES HERE!
KRASH!
THAT FOOL IN THE ROAD...
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE DRIVING, SCHWEIN!
"BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THAT BRAGGART," MILYIK SAID. "THE GUN HE HELD SUDDENLY BECAME A DEADLY VIPER!
WHAT BLACK MAGIC IS THIS?

"EACH TIME OUTSIDERS CAME HERE WITH INVENTIONS SUCH AS TELE-PHONES OR RADIOS, THE GHOST OF VIKTOR PRUHA DESTROYED SUCH THINGS!"

VIKTOR PRUHA CANNOT USE HIS CURSE UPON THAT!

"IT BECAME KNOWN TO ALL IN THIS REGION," THEIR HOST TOLD ANDY AND GLORIA, "AND SO SIGNS WERE ERECTED FORBIDDING MOTORCARS TO DRIVE UPON OUR ROADS!"

YOU MEAN THERE ARE *NO* MODERN THINGS HERE? WHAT ABOUT DOCTORS? AND DENTISTS? HOW DO YOU *FARM*?

THE FARMERS USE OXEN FOR PLOWING...WE GRIND WHEAT FOR BREAD IN A WATER-MILL...DR. SCHMIDT IS OVER NINETY AND HE DOES NOT EMPLOY MODERN INSTRUMENTS OR TECHNIQUES!

IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR YOU TO ENDURE THIS CURSE, HERR MILYIK! IT IS YOUR OWN FEAR WHICH BINDS YOU TO THE PAST!

HAHAHA

HA HA HA

SIT NEAR THE FIRE, I WILL GIVE YOU WARM FOOD AND DRINK!

THANK YOU, HERR MILYIK!

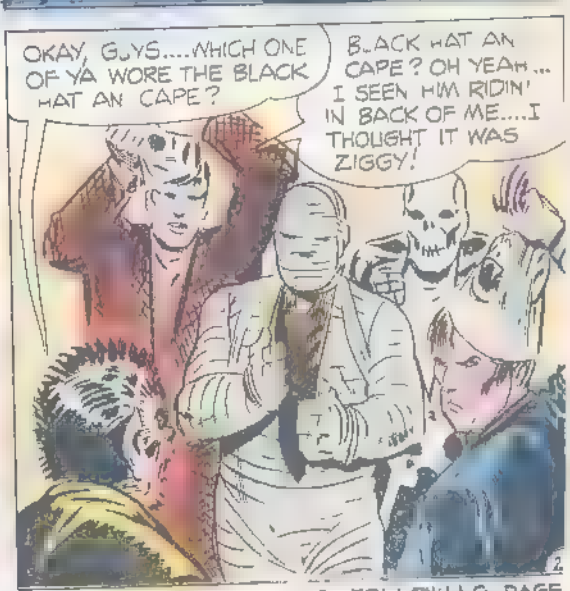
CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

LOOK OUT... WE HAVE DISPLEASED VIKTOR PRUHA!
I'M GETTING SICK OF THAT GENTLEMAN!
ANDY, DO SOMETHING!
I INTEND TO, GLORIA!
SLAM
HERR BURGOMEISTER PRUHA, IF YOU HEAR ME, KNOW THIS...
I HAVE COME TO STAY IN YOUR VILLAGE! I CAME IN AN AUTOMOBILE...I HAVE MANY MODERN THINGS...YOU WILL NOT DESTROY THEM!
SUDDENLY, LIGHTNING SLASHED DOWN FROM A CLOUDLESS SKY...THUNDER CRASHED, DEAFENING THE VILLAGERS...THEY KNEW THAT NEVER BEFORE HAD VIKTOR PRUHA BEEN THIS ANGRY! BUT ANDREW BENFIELD DID NOT QUIVER IN FEAR....
I HAVE COME TO HELP THESE PEOPLE! I BRING KNOWLEDGE AND HOPE... I WILL LIBERATE THEM FROM THE FETTERS OF SUPERSTITION AND DESPAIR!

I WILL TEACH THESE PEOPLE NOT TO BELIEVE IN THE DARK SPIRITS OF THE NIGHT...KNOWLEDGE WILL DEFEAT YOU, HERR BURGOMEISTER!
GO, VIKTOR PRUHA... RETURN TO YOUR GRAVE...LET THE LIVING DECIDE THEIR FATE!
WHO ARE YOU, SIR?
ANDY, YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT!
WE HEARD THE OUTLANDER DEFY THE ANCIENT ONE! HE WAS NOT DESTROYED...PERHAPS HE HAS FREED US OF THIS CURSE!
SUDDENLY, THE STREET WAS EMPTY ...THE GHOST OF VIKTOR PRUHA WAS NO MORE!
BURGOMEISTER VIKTOR PRUHA ROAMED NO MORE...AND GLORIA BENFIELD THANKED HIM FOR IT IN THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD!
REST IN PEACE, HERR BURGOMEISTER!
I AM AN AMERICAN SCHOOL TEACHER ...HERE ON THE TEACHING EXCHANGE PROGRAM...ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE WILL TEACH BACK IN AMERICA IN MY PLACE!
VIKTOR PRUHA BORN 1631 DIED 1668
END

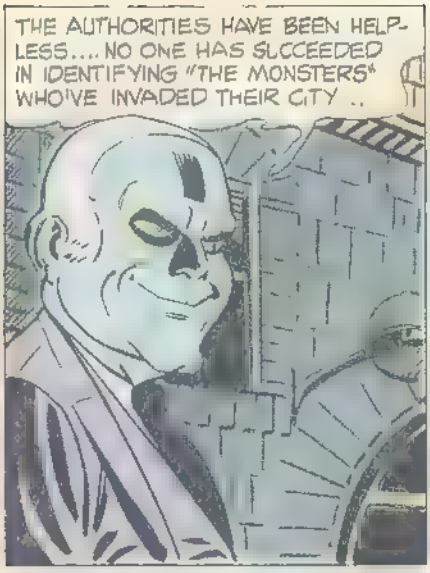
THE MONSTERS RIDE AT NIGHT
IN A SMALL MIDWESTERN CITY, NOT SO LONG AGO THERE WAS A GANG OF THRILL-SEEKERS. THEY RODE MOTORCYCLES... BUT THEY DON'T WEAR THE USUAL BLACK LEATHER JACKETS. THEY CALLED THEMSELVES "THE MONSTERS" AND THEY TERRIFIED THE COMMUNITY!
EEEEEEEE!!!
WE'LL BLITZ 'EM ON MAIN STREET, THEN HEAD FOR THE MANSION!
D-3242

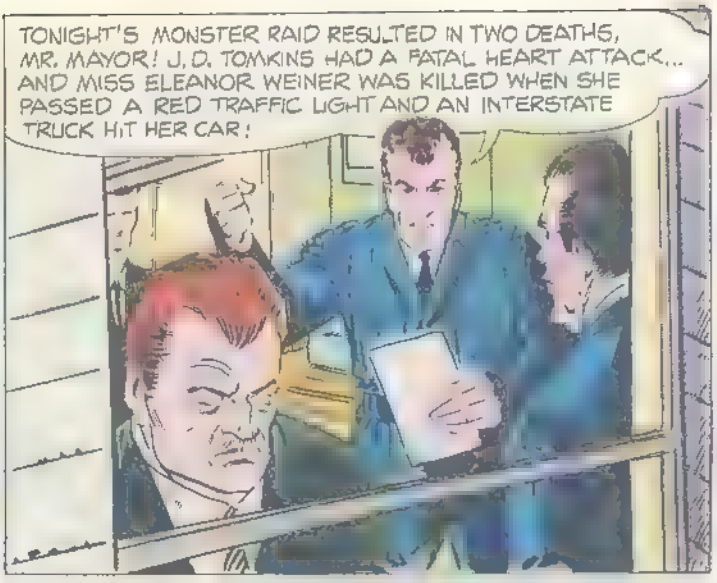
THEY GLOATED AT THE CHAOS THEY CREATED .
LIEUTENANT, IT S THAT SAME BUNCH I CAN T STOP THEM ...A HYSTERICAL DRIVER JUST RAMMED THE POLICE CAR

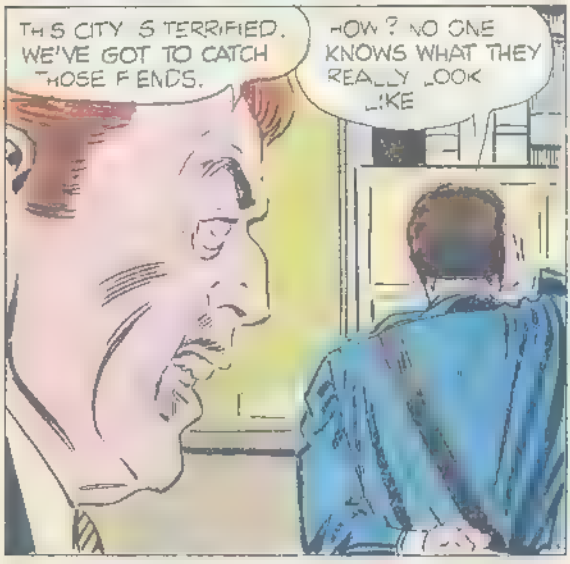

OKAY, GUYS....WHICH ONE OF YA WORE THE BLACK HAT AN CAPE?
BLACK HAT AN CAPE? OH YEAH... I SEEN HIM RIDIN' IN BACK OF ME....I THOUGHT IT WAS ZIGGY!

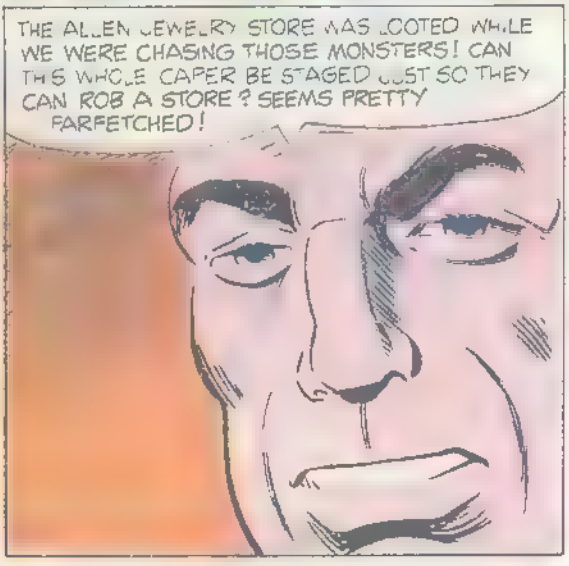
CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

LISTEN, THIS AIN'T FUNNY! WHICH ONE OF YOU WORE THAT BLACK HAT?
COOL IT, MAXWELL! I DIDN'T DO IT!
HERE'S THE PAY-OFF, GUYS! HOW'D YOU MAKE OUT, AMBIE?
WE GOT A SACKFUL OF RINGS AND WRIST WATCHES, MAX!
NICE GOIN', AMBIE! WHILE WE BUZZ THE TOWN, YOU GUYS CLEAN UP!
THESE HOODLUMS ARE DESTROYING A COMMUNITY FOR THE FEW DOLLARS THEY CAN STEAL AFTER THEY TERRORIZE AN AREA!
THEY SHALL PAY.. YOU SHALL SEE THAT THE PRICE IS INDEED HIGH
NOW THEY'VE HAD THEIR KICKS.... THEY SHED THEIR [illegible] MASKS.....AND RESUME THEIR USUAL IDENTITIES! SOMEHOW
...THEIR EVERYDAY FACES ARE NO PLEASANTER THAN THE HIDEOUS LIKENESSES THEY HAD DISPOSED OF!


THE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN HELPLESS.... NO ONE HAS SUCCEEDED IN IDENTIFYING "THE MONSTERS" WHO'VE INVADED THEIR CITY ..

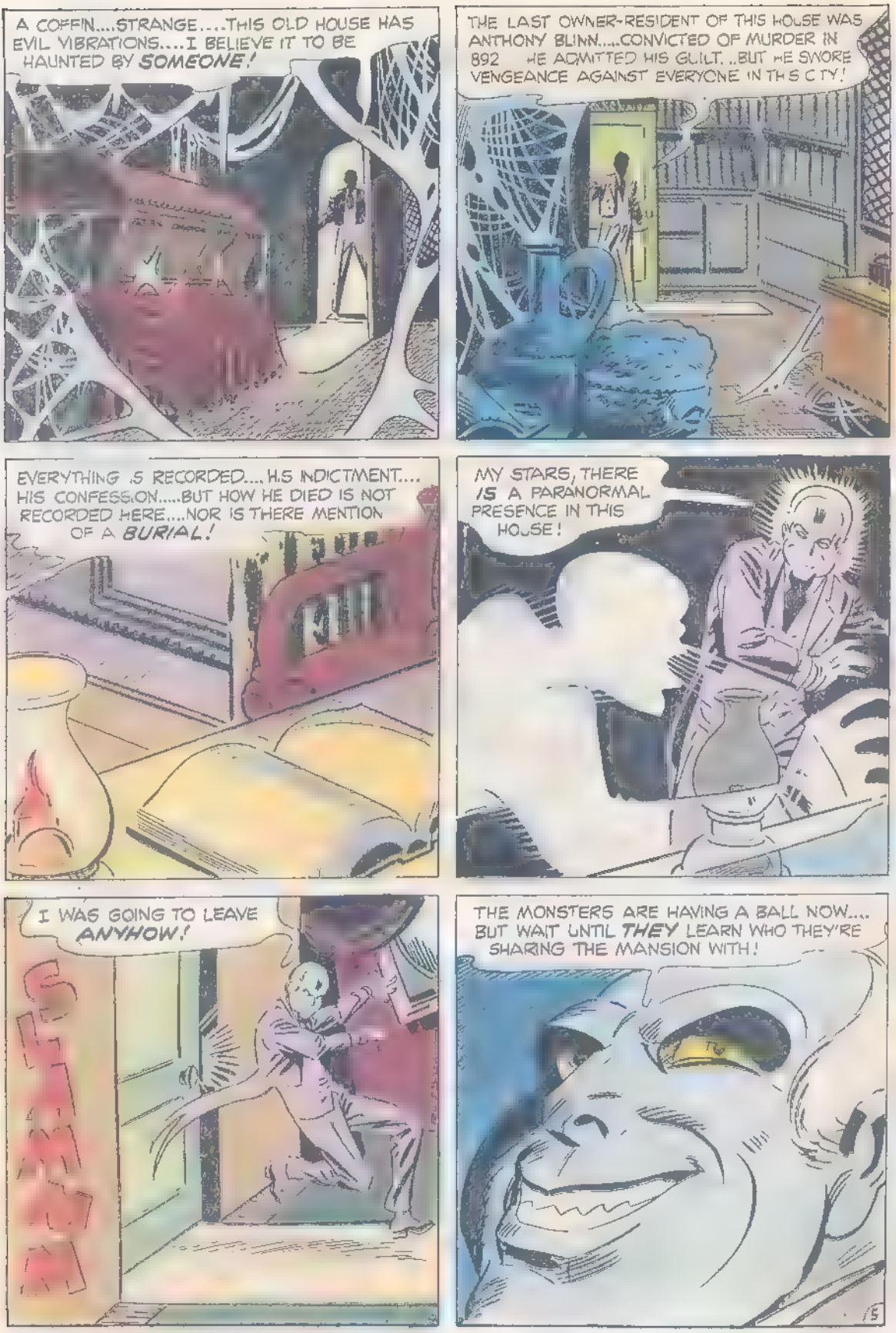

TONIGHT'S MONSTER RAID RESULTED IN TWO DEATHS, MR. MAYOR! J. D. TOMKINS HAD A FATAL HEART ATTACK... AND MISS ELEANOR WEINER WAS KILLED WHEN SHE PASSED A RED TRAFFIC LIGHT AND AN INTERSTATE TRUCK HIT HER CAR!


THIS CITY IS TERRIFIED. WE'VE GOT TO CATCH THOSE FIENDS.
HOW? NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THEY REALLY LOOK LIKE


THE ALLEN JEWELRY STORE WAS LOOTED WHILE WE WERE CHASING THOSE MONSTERS! CAN THIS WHOLE CAPER BE STAGED JUST SO THEY CAN ROB A STORE? SEEMS PRETTY FARFETCHED!

COME ...LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE MONSTERS MANSION DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS...

SOMETHING CHANGED THEM FROM AN ORDINARY GROUP OF PUNKS.... INTO WORSHIPERS OF THE GROTESQUE....OF FORMALIZED EVIL!
KILL
4


A COFFIN....STRANGE....THIS OLD HOUSE HAS EVIL VIBRATIONS....I BELIEVE IT TO BE HAUNTED BY SOMEONE!
THE LAST OWNER-RESIDENT OF THIS HOUSE WAS ANTHONY BLINN....CONVICTED OF MURDER IN 892 HE ADMITTED HIS GUILT...BUT HE SWORE VENGEANCE AGAINST EVERYONE IN TH S C TY!
EVERYTHING .S RECORDED....H.S INDICTMENT.... HIS CONFESS.ON.....BUT HOW HE DIED IS NOT RECORDED HERE....NOR IS THERE MENTION OF A BURIAL!
MY STARS, THERE IS A PARANORMAL PRESENCE IN THIS HOUSE!
I WAS GOING TO LEAVE ANYHOW!
THE MONSTERS ARE HAVING A BALL NOW.... BUT WAIT UNTIL THEY LEARN WHO THEY'RE SHARING THE MANSION WITH!
15

VVVRROOOMM!
SOMEBODY GOT A FLASH? I MIGHT TRIP WALKIN' AROUND IN THE DARK!
DON'T PUT US ON, APE! YOU'RE SCARED OF THE DARK!
APE IS REAL SPOOKED, GUYS! HE'S ALWAYS IMAGININ' HE SEES SOMEONE IN THERE!
HEH HEH HEH
AAAGGHH!!
6

APE? APE, DON'T MESS AROUND....I'LL BUST YER HEAD IF YA GET WISE!
HE'S PROB'LY PULLIN' A GAG, MAXWELL!
HEH HEH HEH HEHHH
VERY FUNNY, APE.... I OUGHTA BEND A LEAD PIPE AROUND YER EARS!
HE LOOKS GREAT, MAX.... BETTER'N THE VAMPIRE OUTFIT HE WORE LAST NIGHT!
YEAH...THAT'S RIGHT....APE WORE THE VAMPIRE MASK... ...BUT I SEEN THIS CREEP LAST NIGHT TOO!
WHO IS IT??
PEEL OFF THE FALSE FACE, FELLA....WHO ARE YA?
HE AIN'T IN OUR BUNCH, MAXWELL.... LET'S TAKE HIM!

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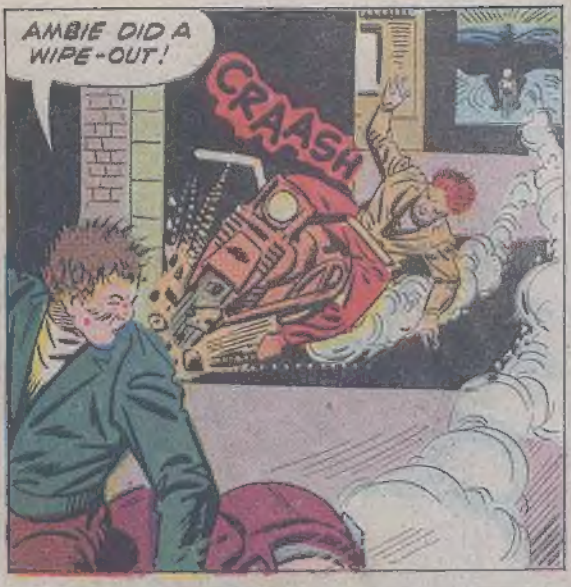
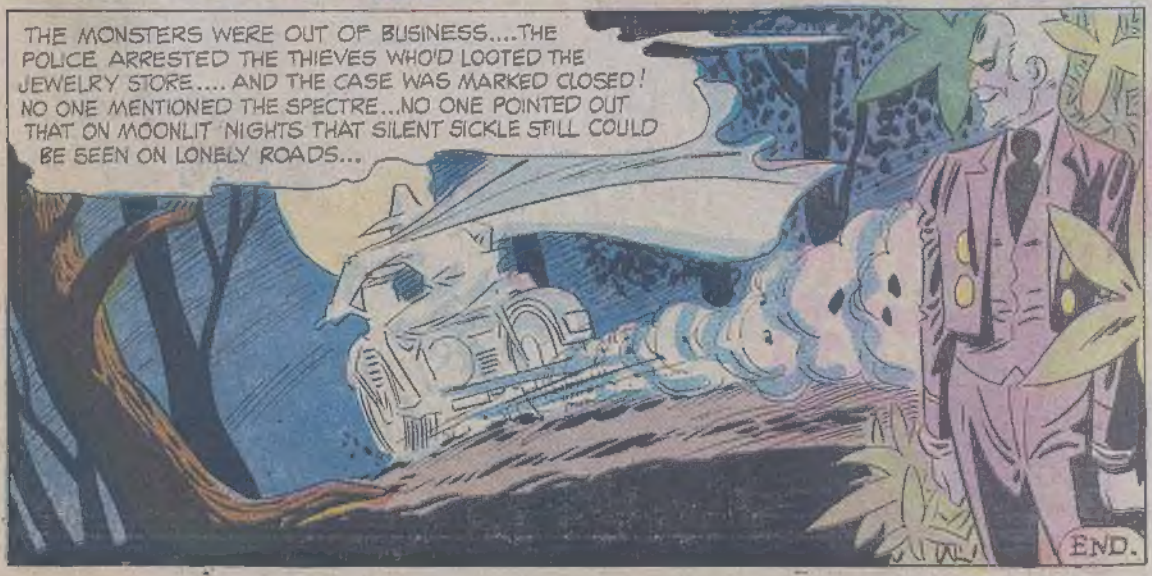
IN TOWN, THEY HEARD THE DREADED ROAR OF THE MONSTERS' BIKES....
CHIEF, THEY'RE COMING! THIS TIME THEY WON'T GET AWAY!


AMBIE DID A WIPE-OUT!
CRAASH

LOOK AT THEM....INTO THE CENTER OF TOWN.... AT FULL SPEED, QUIVERING WITH FEAR! WHAT HAPPENED WAS INEVITABLE!
STAND RIGHT THERE, WHOEVER YOU ARE!
I GIVE UP, SIR.... JUST DON'T LET THAT THING GET ME!

W-WHAT IS IT ? IS HE ONE OF YOUR BUNCH ?
H-HE'S NOT WITH US, SIR.... HE'S JUST WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE....A G-GHOST!
WOOMA


THE MONSTERS WERE OUT OF BUSINESS....THE POLICE ARRESTED THE THIEVES WHO'D LOOTED THE JEWELRY STORE.... AND THE CASE WAS MARKED CLOSED! NO ONE MENTIONED THE SPECTRE...NO ONE POINTED OUT THAT ON MOONLIT NIGHTS THAT SILENT SICKLE STILL COULD BE SEEN ON LONELY ROADS...
END.